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BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1895.

THIS PAPER RECEIVES THE COMBINED TELEGRAPHIC-NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATED PRESS AND THE UNITED PRESS.

The President's Last Message.

The message which the President sent to the Senate on Friday last was on the condition of the finances of the country. The message which he sent to Congress on the 17th instant was on the subject of the Venezuelan troubles, or, rather, the tropics between Great Britain and the United States growing out of the Venezuelan boundary question. But Mr. Cleveland, in his annual message, treated at some length the subject of the finances of the country, and prepared the way for himself to follow if he should have occasion to do so.

The message of last Friday created quite a stir in Wall street and everywhere else, and caused the Venezuelan message to be left in the rear. It has, moreover, caused Congress to abandon its purpose to take a Christmas recess, and made Speaker Reed hasten to announce his committee. We know of no way that the gold reserve could be protected except by the sale of bonds, and just at this moment, when the chief money markets are turned topsy-turvy, our bonds would not sell for the prices that we have been in the habit of getting for them. Doubtless Congress expects from Mr. Cleveland precise information as to what he expects it to do in this emergency.

Meanwhile, there is a semi-official intimation that the Republicans of the House will proceed to frame a high-tariff bill and will lay the heaviest sort of duties on English goods. Such a bill, if passed, would presuppose that there would be no war between the two countries, since, in the event of war, all communication with England would be cut off, and there would be no such duties to collect. So, that would seem to be a foolish scheme. We take it that it is not current revenue that the President asks Congress to provide, just now, but the means to prevent the disappearance of our gold reserve. How, in his opinion, this object can be accomplished, he has explained in his annual message.

That the President thoroughly understands the situation is shown in the closing paragraph of his message of Friday to the Senate. He says:

"I ask at the hands of the Congress such prompt aid as it alone has the power to give, to prevent, in a time of fear and apprehension, any sacrifice of the people's interests and public funds, or the impairment of our public credit, and a prolonged course of executive action to relieve the dangers of the present emergency."

"Prompt aid" the President must have; "fear and apprehension" must be removed. Neither "the people's interests nor the funds of the public" must be sacrificed. There must be no impairment of our public credit. There must be some measure resorted to other than Executive action. The dangers of the present emergency must be quieted.

We know that there will be many men of many words in both houses of Congress when these important matters shall come up for determination. Let us all seek to lay aside every consideration not patriotic.

Fashionable Weddings.

The spectacular part of a fashionable wedding has become something so formidable that young people cannot be formed for shrinking from boldly assuming the leading roles in what can so easily be made a farce. Rehearsals are getting more and more elaborate, as the performance becomes more elaborate, and by and by, applicants for matrimonial honors will have to go through a prolonged course of coaching before they can appear upon the stage. Attendants are even more to be pitted, as their parts are less thrilling, and almost as critical, especially the role of the best man—Norfolk Landmark.

Nevertheless, marriages were never more frequent. As for the "spectacular part" of them, the bride couple and their attendants like to be seen, and the public like to see them. A fashionable wedding draws better than grand opera. We have seen none here that was farcical, though we should not like to see the present limits of the "spectacular part" enlarged. And, on some occasions, the behavior of persons who were admitted to the churches has not been such as it should have been. We cannot blame the bride couple for taking pains to ensure smoothness in the ceremonies; but the solemnity of the ceremonies is in danger of being lessened by too many "spectacular" features.

What is more, the newly married couple and their friends like to see the wedding nicely described in the newspapers. What they wish is a newspaper account that treats the subject fully and in good taste. To do this sort of work properly requires nice discrimination. Poverty of language and exaggeration both ought to be avoided.

his business, and who is employed by a careful paper, knows a trick worth two of that. Much of his information is gathered in advance and comes from "head-quarters."

In England, in the best society, "rehearsals" in church are regarded as in bad form. Of course they have "rehearsals" but these take place at the home of the bride-elect and may be very well done in the spacious old houses of that country.

So far as the hardship upon the attendants is concerned, that is a thing that is very cheerfully borne. Each man and woman of them belongs to a mutual assurance society and to-day pays out coin which to-morrow is to be returned in kind. The presents that he or she gives, the alleged worry that he or she submits to will be exacted of his or her fellows in due season. In other words, the average attendant knows that there is a way "to get even," and that way he or she usually pursues. If the chronic old bachelor will stay in society and won't get married, the hardships that the Landmark refers to are no more than a just punishment for his delinquency.

Losses at Gas-Works-Charter Amendments.

The agitation growing out of the immense losses sustained by the city in the gas-works promises to result in passing a bill upon this Legislature to put all the city departments under a single commission. A bill for such a purpose will be introduced in the Legislature after Christmas. It will be bitterly opposed—Richmond special in Baltimore Sun.

We would better not try to catch all the fish in the sea at one haul. If we succeed, apparently, our net won't break, and our "catch" would not amount to anything. Last October the advocates of charter amendments wrecked their cause by attempting too much. It is possible that they might have carried three or four of the amendments, but when they submitted eight or nine the movement broke down of its own weight. Let us take warning by their experience.

First, we ought to insist that the petition of the City Council seeking to re-examine the Board of Public Interests be rejected. Next, we ought to ask that the gas-works be put under a commission. Next, we ought to ask for a board of finance and audit. These three things we may succeed in getting; but if we aim at a revolution of the city government, we shall almost surely fail.

No charter change is needed to give the Mayor more power. His duties are prescribed in the State Constitution. His powers are ample. But if within the lines of the constitutional provision it is deemed desirable that the Mayor shall be made to take a more active part in municipal affairs than he now does, no doubt that can be arranged by ordinance.

The Dispatch is by no means satisfied with the present division of the city into wards. Instead of six wards, a city as large as this ought to have at least ten; but we doubt whether it would be good policy to inject that question into the pending controversy. This controversy had its origin in the ill-judged and unwise movement in the City Council to undermine the Board of Public Interests. The City Council (not all of the members, but a majority) are hostile to the Board of Public Interests, while the board is in high favor with the people.

The City Council will go to the Legislature with the request that the board be relieved of its power to nominate fire and police commissioners, and will be met in the legislative committee by delegations of earnest citizens, who will argue that this is one of the questions that were settled at the last Democratic primary, and who will contend that it is good policy to keep the Fire and Police departments as far removed as possible from city politics. They are not very far removed now, but they are farther than they would be if the commissioners were not nominated by the Board of Public Interests.

Doubtless, there are several city departments that might be placed under commissions with advantage to public interest; but, in aiming at too wide a mark, we may miss everything. For these reasons we would have our people confine their efforts before this Legislature to securing such action as will defeat the purpose of the City Council to undermine the Board of Public Interests, and give us two new commissions.

This subject will doubtless come before the Legislature soon after it reassembles in January. We recommend that those who favor such course as we have outlined get together and appoint a committee to draft the necessary bills, and to represent them before the committees of the two houses of the General Assembly.

Wall Street's Response.

The New York Journal of Commerce says of the effort of Wall street to alarm the country, if it has made any such effort, that it is "the response of Wall street" to Mr. Cleveland's blunder, and then adds:

"It is putting the case mildly to say that neither friends nor enemies recognize in the Cleveland of the message about Venezuela the Cleveland whom they thought they knew. Here and there a characteristically turgid quality of style may suggest his hand, but the recklessness of the production, tested either by the standard of morals or of statesmanship, reveals an entirely new side of his character."

We have been inclined to impute the authorship of the Venezuela message to some other person than Mr. Cleveland. His Secretary of State may have read it carefully and critically, as, indeed, did all the members of his Cabinet; but we have seen no intimation from anybody entitled to speak on the subject that Mr. Cleveland did not write the message himself.

Two Remarks.

The Washington Post says that the President will do much to reconcile the nation to what it must regard as hasty and improvident action on the part of Congress by appointing as the head of the commission Hon. Benjamin Harrison, of Indiana.

Domestic Turkey and Foreign War.

The turkey-gobbler, hearing the war notes of the eagle-bird, doubtless looks to Englishmen and Americans as well as to his own kind. But we guess not, for he is in the midst of actual war, the turkey cuts a great figure on the Christmas table.

We remember that once or twice during the struggle for southern independence the people of Richmond endeavored to give each soldier in Lee's army a Christmas dinner, and all the turkeys that could be bought hereabout were gathered up for this purpose.

Those were starvation times, and the fairest part of Virginia was occupied by the enemy. The turkey was rather a rare bird, so we would not swear that some of the "dressed turkeys" that were served to the soldiers were not roosters. But those were also days when men had great appetites, and rooster-meat was not despised, at Christmas, or whenever it could be gotten. The men—by the way, they were nearly all very young men—who lived, as a rule, upon corn-bread and fat meat (when the meat could be gotten), were not inclined to quarrel with the rooster because he appeared as the substitute for the turkey.

Since actual war did not reduce the demand for the Christmas turkey, we should not think that the talk of war would.

We remember to have seen many armies of turkeys (not Turks) marching into Richmond. And of all armies that ever marched into a city they were the strangest, for they came unarmed and not to kill, but to be killed. As far as we know, in one direction, or Henry county, another, turkey-dealers would buy up these birds by the hundred, and, forming them into great "gangs," or droves, would drive them here to be sold. At the head of the column generally came strutting some ancient gobbler. Very steadily in their walk, and very manageable, indeed, were the turkeys on the road, until sunset. Then they would march no more. Then they would go to roost upon the nearest fence or trees. A drover was once passing up Governor street, into Capitol street, when nightfall came, and his entire gang of turkeys halted and flew upon the Capitol Square fence and trees, and there, resisting all threats and entreaties, they roosted until daylight, when they became obedient once more, and were easily driven to the Bacon's Quarter-branch neighborhood.

It happens that while we are about to eat our Christmas turkey there are rumors of violence and cruelty in the land of Turkey, and England and the United States are making at each other as if about to fight over the country of which the turkey bird is said to be a native. Certainly, the turkey is of American origin. He is said to have been taken home by Spaniards from the country near the mouth of the Orinoco river. Another account says that the turkey was domesticated in Mexico, when first the Spaniards landed there, and from Spain found his way into Turkey. It is further said that the English got their first turkey from Turkey. In England the stock was much improved by judicious breeding, and in due time Virginians began to import turkeys from the mother country.

Before the turkey was introduced into Europe the peacock and the goose held sway on Christmas tables, along with the boar's head. The peacock was a luxury which few could afford; it was the amiable, and, despite popular opinion, we may say intelligent, goose that was everywhere seen. And to this day, in some parts of Europe, the goose holds high place (no joke), though the turkey is everywhere known and appreciated.

May the presence of the turkey upon the Christmas boards of the world have a pacifying, as well as appetizing, influence. And may those who have spurned proposals for arbitration of great international disputes, have their hearts turned to wisdom by the lessons of the day, teaching peace on earth and good will to men.

Venezuela and Her People.

In the multitude of articles that have been written recently about the Venezuela boundary dispute, comparatively little information has been given regarding the country itself. Where, and what are the facts about the republic that is now being discussed in the capitals of the civilized world, and whose disagreement with Great Britain over a question of territory may, it is feared in some quarters, result in hostilities between the two great English-speaking nations of the globe?

Venezuela is a federal republic, situated in the northern part of South America, with its principal coast line upon the Caribbean Sea. Its government is vested in a President, General Crespo, a Senate, composed of twenty-seven members, three from each of the States, and a Chamber of Deputies, consisting of sixty-three members. The Venezuelans claim a territorial area of 88,934 square miles, but British authority, Whitaker, in 1893, put the area at only 56,159 square miles. The population is estimated at about 2,500,000. Less than 2 per cent. of these are white, the remainder being negroes, Indians, mulattoes, and people of mixed blood called Zambos. In 1894 there were 287 miles of railroad in the republic, and 1,240 miles more were projected. The principal exports are coffee, cocoa, hides, cotton, sugar, tobacco, indigo, bark, talow, dye-woods, timber, and copper ore. The United States enjoy quite a large export trade with Venezuela.

The coast of Venezuela was the first part of the main-land of America sighted by Columbus, who, during his third voyage, in 1498, entered the Gulf of Paria, and sailed along the shores of the Orinoco delta. It was in the following year visited by Alonso de Ojeda and Amerigo Vesputius, and in 1599 was erected into the captain-generalship of Caracas. Its history since then has in large measure been a counterpart of the history of most of the other Spanish possessions in South America. In 1809 the Venezuelans rose against Spanish dominion, and the year following proclaimed the independence of the territory. A war of ten years' duration ensued, in which Bolivar was the leading spirit, but it was not until 1845 that the independence of the country was acknowledged by Spain. The republic has been the scene of numerous revolutions, and what real development it has had may be said to date from 1873, when Don Guzman Blanco was elected constitutional President, after having been Dictator. During the Spanish dominion less attention was given to Venezuela than to any of the other Spanish American possessions for the reason that the country was supposed to be without deposits of precious metals. Of late years, however, gold has been discovered in the territory that has been so long in dispute between the republic and Great Britain, and to this fact many attribute the obstinacy of the latter in pressing her claims. However, should England succeed in making good by force or otherwise a line that would

give her command of the mouth of the Orinoco, the commercial advantages accruing to her would be infinitely more valuable than the possession of the Venezuelan gold-fields. The fact that Great Britain expressed a willingness to submit to arbitration her claim to territory west of the Schomburgk line would seem to prove that the control of the mouth of the Orinoco and the consequent practical direction of the trade of the country drained by that river constitute the real bone of contention and the real prize she has in view.

It may be that there is something defective in the Mississippi pension system, and it may be that in some of the other Southern States there are men on the Confederate-pension rolls who ought not to be on them. Yet we think the New York Evening Post attains to the most sublime degree of audacity, and takes the prize for irreparable utterance, when, in discussing this subject, it says: "The inevitable tendency of any pension system to weaken the public morals and encourage people to swindle the government is shown, perhaps, more clearly in the case of the grants made by Southern States for the benefit of disabled Confederate veterans than in the pension-list for the survivors of the Federal army."

The Pittsburgh Tribune has an editorial on people who are victimized by the sellers of green goods. We do not think that such people deserve sympathy from anybody. The terms on which the swindlers pretend to offer to sell valuable goods testify that the transactions are not to be honest ones, and ought to serve as a warning to any and all persons inclined to trade in green goods, that they will do so only on ruinous terms.

Lord Salisbury advances the contention that if the United States propose to protect the South and Central American States, they should make those States behave themselves. By the same logic Great Britain should make Turkey behave herself. John Bull is the self-confident protector of the unpeppable Turkey, whose recreation for several months past has been the butchery of Armenians.

The New York Sun of yesterday has a half-column editorial saying that Christmas is a good season for giving, and calling upon the people to make liberal contributions to restore the buildings of the University of Virginia.

When the part of the war which is being fought in the stock exchanges is over, there may be no war left to be fought. So mote it be.

A Christmas Glutton.

On candy models of each beast That Noah's ark did frame; They'll let the precious children feast Till they to dinner came.

And, when, of all its grand array, The youngest took no bite, The watchful mother said, "Why, May, What's spoiled your appetite?"

"I know," said Bertie, with a smile, "She's eat a big haboon, Two elephants, a crocodile, Four camels, and a conch."

A Shopping Truth.

There's many a lass of certain class— That enters certain places, With no intent to spend a cent, But just to price the laces. And other goods; nor do those moods Disprove their business 'hearties.' 'Cause, don't you see, they prove to be Real enter-pricing-parties.

General Hauling.

In view of the times and the indigent state That the average being has met, We will not only hang up our stockings this year, But we'll "hang up" whatever we get.

Making Sure of It.

Mr. Jackson: Well, Parson, I suppose your congregation remember you every Christmas, don't they?
Parson Jinglejaw: They's ap ter, an' den agin dey ain't de las' time dey skup de mementoos alteredder.
Mr. Jackson: How do you think it will be with them this year?
Parson Jinglejaw: Oh, it's got ter ta'n out all right dis time, sah! 'Yo see, dar's be'n a ch'ch fa'r, an' mer wife be'n de treasurer, an' she gw' mek me de assernee. In co'se it'll be tekkin time by der fo'lock, as de sayin' am, but, all de same, it'll keep charty f'om missin de mark dis time.

Very Likely.

It was an Irishman who remarked of a miser, who had died, and had been treated to a rather expensive burial: "Faix! ag' he'd lived long enough to see how mighty ligitrastravin a ting it was to do, it's me own opinion he'd never been born, sure!"

Appearances Deceive.

Lipper: There goes a gentleman who looks as if he were accustomed to lay on a bed of roses.
Chipper: He isn't, though; he's the vil-lage barber, and spends most of his time laying on lather.

Adhesive.

"That dog," said a sportsman, of a setter he was utilizing, "is very much like his master. If he lies on a scent once he never lets it go."

A Modest Rejoinder.

Flasher: Well, now, since you have brought up the subject, what is poetry?
Coyman: Can it be possible that you have never read any of my effusions?

It has been remarked that Sahara "wears a waste of glittering sand." If this be true, there is probably a long gravel-train sweeping after her.

This is a good season for credit; if you think of stocking your store, the wholesaler ought to "hang it up" for you.

Profanity quite commonly bespeaks a loose character, just as a dam often indicates that it has its sluice way of doing things.

Some people think the legend of Santa Claus is like the post-holiday wallet—"nothing in it."

Though he has no choice of occupations, the laborer often takes his "pick."

Is this a free country? and echo answers: "Freek country?"

The miser is the original chest-protector.

Literary Notes.

An edition, limited to 450 copies, of the "Epithalamium of Edmund Spenser, with Certain Imaginative Drawings by George Wharton Edwards," has been published by Dodd, Mead & Co. The artist, they state, has carried out in his illustrations one artistic scheme in harmony with the text.

The New York Herald for December

15th (the Christmas number) contains the \$3,000 prize novelties, by Miss Sewall, and the \$1,000-epic poem. This is a superb number of this great paper.

Messrs. Copeland & Day announce the first two books in a series of American verse, to be known as the "Open Step Series—"Dumb in June," by Richard Burton, and "A Doric Reed," by Zitella Cocks.

Forty thousand copies of Rudyard Kipling's new "Jungle Book" were consumed by the first demand. Another edition is now on the Century Company's presses. "Ivora," the novel left substantially complete by Robert Louis Stevenson, will be published in McClure's Magazine. It is described as purely a romance of adventure.

The Open Court Publishing Company has issued "Karma," a tale by Dr. Paul Carna, illustrated by Japanese artists, and "Lovers Three Thousand Years Ago," as indicated by the Song of Solomon, by the Rev. T. A. Goodwin, D. D.

Mr. William Morris will issue a new edition of his "Earthly Paradise," from the Kelmscott press. It is to be in eight volumes, bound in vellum, and the poet is designing a new series of borders and ornaments.

A free library, to cost \$60,000, will be presented by Andrew Carnegie to the city of New York. Mr. Carnegie will also provide the permanent endowment for its maintenance.

Gilbert Parker, the Canadian author, says the New York Critic, followed Rudyard Kipling's example on December 5th, when he married Miss Amy E. Vantine, of this city. This does not look much like the annexation of Canada by the United States, of which there is sometimes talk.

Aubrey Beardsley, of Yellow-Book fame, has written a novel called "Under the Hill," which he will publish in the new magazine, the Savoy.

The entire edition of the December Harper's Magazine, an edition of unusual size, was exhausted immediately after publication. A second is coming from the press.

Recent publications by the Harpers are: "The Journal of a Spy in Paris During the Reign of Terror," by "Raoul Hedin"; "Censura," a sketch from Paso del Norte, by Maude Mason Austin; and "Methods of Mind-Training," by Catherine Allen.

Among Houghton, Mifflin & Co.'s recent issues are: "The Cabells and Their Kin," a work on Dr. William Cabell and his descendants, by Alexander Brown; and a new edition of the second volume of "The Virginia Campaign of 1862 Under General Pope."

Miss Beatrice Harraden has completed a new novel—the first work of any length which she has done since "Ships, Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co. will be the publishers. The same firm offers a limited edition in several styles of Austin Dobson's Poems, revised, enlarged, and complete, with an etched portrait and seven full-page photographs. The workman-ship will be wholly American.

"The City of the Sultans; or, Constantinople, the Sentinel of the Bosphorus," by Clara Erskine Clement, with twenty full-page photographs, will be published by Estes & Lauriat. The book is the first of a new series, uniform in scope and style with the series of Italian Cities Illustrated, published by the same house, which publishes also a volume of short stories and poems for children, by Laura E. Richards, entitled, "Five-Minute Stories."

Hamlin Garland's new book, "Rose of Dutcher's Coolly," has just been issued by Stone & Kimball. It is described as a study of absolutely contemporary Chicago. It must be anything but cheerful reading. Several volumes of the Polychrome edition of the world, under the editorship of Professor Paul Haupt, of Johns Hopkins University, have recently been announced. These include "Leviticus," by Professor Driver, of Oxford; "Joshua," by Professor Brunnell, of London; "Samuel," by Professor Budde, of Strassburg; "Jeremiah," by Professor Cornhill, of Koenigsberg; and "Job," by Professor Siegfried, of Jena. It is for this edition that Dr. H. H. Furness, of Philadelphia, is preparing in a poetical English translation of the Psalms, from a translation made from the amended text into German prose during the last year.

Mr. Sidney Colvin says that arrangements have been made for the publication of Stevenson's "Weir of Hermiston," in Mr. T. Fisher Unwin's new periodical, Cosmopolis. "Those who have read it," says Mr. Colvin, "are agreed in thinking it, so far as it goes, by far the best; but it also unfortunately remains a fragment."

The memoirs of the late Mr. Lockwood, edited by his son-in-law, Mr. Augustine Birrell, will appear early in the new year.

Contributions for the children's monument to the late Eugene Field have already been received from New Orleans. This, says the New York Critic, shows that the movement is assuming national proportions, and that its success is assured.

Ballade of Piccadilly.

(Full-Mat Gazette.)
In many lands I've served my queen,
And have known the love of fighting,
In all the service I have seen,
Where sweeps Sahara's sandy glow
And where the jungle grasses grow
My thoughts are of Piccadilly m'ny.

Back to where life is sweetest,
The paving-stones of Piccadilly.

And, now I'm old, I love them e'en
More than I loved them years ago,
The tall white pillars of the nation
Park, and the traffic's overflow:
Whether the summer breezes blow
Come the warm rain, or the chilly
I tread with steps serene and slow
The paving-stones of Piccadilly.

When fashion orders change of scene,
And off in troops her patients go
To Hamburg or the Englands,
Do I obey the mandate? No,
Like Horace, urban foveo.
Nor do I charter guide or gillie;
How could I leave, who love them so,
The paving-stones of Piccadilly?

ENVY.
Prince, on my tomb no favor throw
Of hyacinth or daffodilly.
Hereafter let me rest below
The paving-stones of Piccadilly.

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